

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended). An inoculum for application to plants, said inoculum comprising a carrier and an effective quantity of a biologically pure bacterial culture of bacteria, the bacteria selected from *Klebsiella pneumoniae* 342 (ATCC No. PTA-2743), *Klebsiella pneumoniae* zmvsy (ATCC No. PTA-2741), ~~and mutant strains derived therefrom~~, said ~~mutant~~ strains able to enhance the growth of plants.

2. (Canceled).

3. (Canceled).

4. (Previously Presented). A biologically pure bacterial culture wherein the bacteria is selected from *Klebsiella pneumoniae* 342 (ATCC No. PTA-2743) and *Klebsiella pneumoniae* zmvsy (ATCC No. PTA-2741).

5. (Cancelled). ~~A biologically pure culture of a mutant strain, the mutant strain derived from either Klebsiella pneumoniae 342 (ATCC No. PTA-2743) or Klebsiella pneumoniae zmvsy (ATCC No. PTA-2741), wherein the mutant strain retains the ability to enhances the growth of plants.~~

6. (Canceled).

7. (Canceled).

8. (Canceled).

9. (Canceled).

10. (Canceled).

11. (Canceled).

12. (Canceled).

13. (Withdrawn). A method for identifying *Klebsiella pneumoniae* bacterial strains having the ability to enhance the growth of a cereal grass plant, said method comprising the steps of:

isolating a bacterial isolate wherein the isolate a *Klebsiella pneumoniae* bacterial strain;

planting a cereal grass seed or a cereal grass seedling with said test material in a planting medium;

growing said planted cereal grass seed or said cereal grass seedling for a time sufficient to allow for a growing seedling to develop and be evaluated for growth enhancement; and

evaluating the growing seedling for evidence of enhanced growth when compared to a growing seedling grown in the absence of test material.

14. (Canceled).

15. (Canceled).

16. (Canceled).

17. (Canceled).

18. (New). The inoculum of claim 1, wherein the inoculum enhances the growth of *Poa pretensis*,

*Triticum aestivum* and *Oryza sativa*.

19. (New). The inoculum of claim 1, wherein enhancing plant growth is increasing shoot weight.
20. (New). The inoculum of claim 1, wherein enhancing plant growth is increasing grain or seed yield.